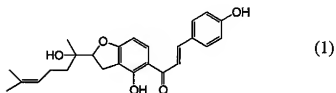


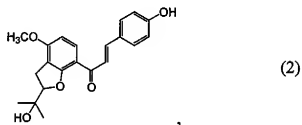
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A chalcone compound represented by any one of the following formulas (1) to [(9):] (8) or a salt thereof:

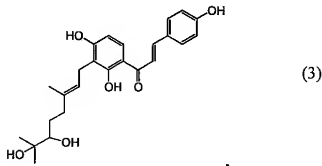
[Ka 1]



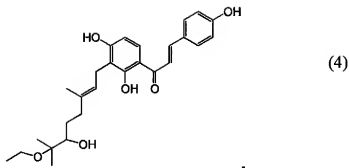
[Ka 2]



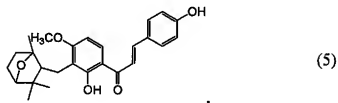
[Ka 3]



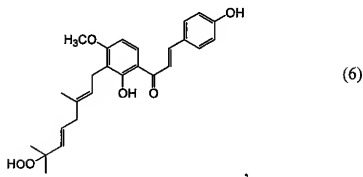
[Ka 4]



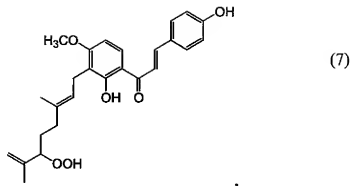
[Ka 5]



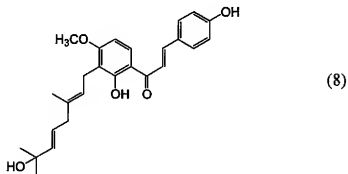
[Ka 6]



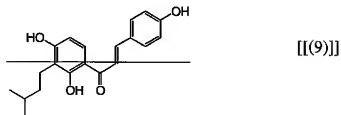
[Ka 7]



[Ka 8]



[Ka 9]



2. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic agent comprising the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A food, beverage or feed, comprising the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, which is an ester thereof or an ether thereof, or comprises a hydrolyzable glycoside, or a salt thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a subject in need thereof, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a subject in need thereof, wherein said subject in need thereof suffers from one or more diseases or afflictions selected from the group consisting of: carcinogenetic diseases, inflammatory diseases, chronic rheumatic arthritis, rheumatic osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis, Behcet's disease, cataracts, peripheral nerve disease, nephritic disease, infections caused by lowering of phagocytotic action of leukocytes, diabetic coma, and arteriosclerosis caused by atheromatous degeneration in the great vessel wall.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein an amount of the compound administered is from 10 $\mu\text{g/g}$ to 100 mg/kg of body weight of the subject.